

Update

Spring 2011

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Mission

"The mission of Missouri School of Religion Center for Rural Ministry is to provide transforming experiences of leader development, ministerial preparation and continuing education, with concern for small and rural churches and communities. Working within ecumenical partnerships, we affirm our covenant with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)."

Our Day Has Come!

By Fran Schnarre

Our day has come! Two realities are making the MSR Certificate of Pastoral Ministry even more useful to the church of Jesus Christ:

1. Fewer congregations can afford seminary-trained, full-time pastors.
2. Fewer seminary-trained pastors choose to serve in small town and rural areas.

God provides--and God is calling people to ministry: as second-career, part-time, bi-vocational, associate, or youth ministers. God is calling people who delight in rural, small-town, or small-church life; people who bring new energy to the communities they serve.

God is providing new energy for our three-year Certificate of Pastoral Ministry program, as our faculty meet and determine how our curriculum addresses the competencies and learning outcomes needed for successful, fruitful ministry.

A shortage of ministers will continue in small-town and rural areas. But you can help. Please take time to read Theresa Hamilton's column, *The Accidental Pastor's Wife*, in this issue of Update. Ask yourself two questions:

1. Have I heard a call from God to serve the church in ministry? Not a Damascus Road experience perhaps, but maybe a still, small voice, echoed by others?
2. Do I know someone who has the potential to be a leader, a preacher, a pastor? What can I say to him or her that might awaken an awareness of God's calling?

Our time has come! Join us in calling, preparing and encouraging ministers to serve in the Body of Christ.

Connect to Missouri School of Religion!

We are continually changing and updating our website to make it more user friendly. All of our courses and events are listed online with the option to register on a secure site using a Visa or MasterCard. There are also registration forms available for those who prefer to send a check. We can also take a donation to support the mission and ministry of MSR on line. Be sure to find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

www.missourischoolofreligion.org

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Missouri School of Religion welcomes five new board members



Missouri School of Religion happy to announce the addition of five new board members (left to right) **Phil Smith**, Hannibal; **Fred Erickson**, Hallsville; **Theresa Hamilton**, Gallatin; and **Susan Krumm**, Fulton. Not pictured **Linda McAnany**, Jefferson City.

The Accidental Pastor's Wife

by Theresa Hamilton

In 1991, I married a traveling auditor who worked for the state of Missouri; little did I know that less than 10 years later I would become a preacher's wife. After a traumatic child birth experience in 1995 that nearly resulted in my death, and our sons, my husband Russ decided to answer the call to ministry. We survived the ordeal...but our lives have never been the same.

Our 15-year ministry journey is an interesting tale of how God re-directed our lives, and how the Missouri School of Religion played an important role in the development of our ministry. Russ was among the first graduates of the CPM program after its re-organization in 1998. While he worked on his CPM studies, I worked for the Rickman Center, and later for the mid-America Region of the Disciples of Christ church as their newsletter editor and information coordinator-that's when I really became familiar with the ministry of MSR. I even had the chance to be a part of it for about six months while I filled in for Krystal so she could join her husband who was stationed in Fort Carson, Colorado.

After receiving my degree in journalism from Lincoln University, I decided to take my first CPM class-that was 10 years ago! I'm especially excited about the new online courses, because they will allow me to work my studies into our busy schedule. And best of all, the online classes save me a lot of time and money in travel costs. It has been rewarding to study online with people from all over the country; many of them have different faith backgrounds than me. As a lay person, the fact that I can learn along with other lay people and experienced clergy is a real benefit to me as a student-this also adds a wonderful

dimension of diversity to the learning experience.

So what are you waiting for? If you feel the Lord calling you, I encourage you to explore your options and take a course from MSR--you never know where you might end up! Russ graduated from the CPM program in 2000, we moved from Jefferson City, to Rolla, and for the past seven years have been in a flourishing ministry in the small, rural town of Gallatin, Mo. When you put God in control of your life you never know what might happen. We still marvel at the work the Lord has done through us-and it's all because Russ answered the call to ministry and enrolled in the Missouri School of Religion's CPM program.

Whether you are considering a call to ministry, are a bi-vocational pastor, a lay person wanting to gain more knowledge in a specific area, or are currently a clergy person seeking continuing education, MSR offers something for everyone!

Theresa Hamilton has a writing ministry through her blog, "The Accidental Preacher's Wife," at: <http://theresahamilton.wordpress.com>
She is also a new member of the MSR board.



Personhood of the Pastor

An exploration of one's sense of call and the use of several contemporary methods of self-assessment, (e.g., Myers-Briggs, etc.) to understand one's self and to analyze one's pastoral leadership style and to develop a personal plan for self-care.

Instructor: **Rev. Bob Eichenberger**, D.Min., Director, Pastoral Counseling Services, Columbia and Moberly, MO; Pastor, Higbee Christian Church.

Dates: May 19-21, 2011

Times: 9:00 a.m. Thursday to 5:00 p.m. Saturday

Location: Rickman Center, Jefferson City

Cost: \$390 (includes lodging and meals) \$330 Commuter

For more information contact krystalmsr@earthlink.net or call 573-635-1187.

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The Pastoral Scholarship Program

We are pleased to announce a new scholarship program for Certificate of Pastoral Ministry (CPM) students. As you know, the CPM program is a three-year curriculum of undergraduate-level courses for licensed/commissioned ministers. Courses are available at the Rickman Center in Jefferson City and online.

Missouri School of Religion has received two gifts in the last year that enable us to begin this new scholarship program, which has the potential to effectively cut tuition costs in half for our students.

Announcing: The Pastoral Scholarship Program

MSR will match, up to \$100 per CPM course, funds provided by the student's church.

Five core CPM courses are offered per year. Tuition for one class is \$390 for 30 hours of classroom instruction or for equivalent online instruction. If MSR receives \$100 from the student's local church, the scholarship fund will match it with another \$100. The net cost to the student would be \$190 per course. This would be applicable to all five core courses per year, saving the student \$1,000 in tuition costs.

A proportionate scholarship is available for the annual short course (Evangelism, Christian Education, or Stewardship). MSR would offer up to \$35 to match funds provided by the student's home church to apply to the \$140 tuition costs.

If you know of someone who has gifts for ministry, please pass along this information. There are many Disciples churches that need trained, capable ministers. **This is an excellent time to begin education for ministry through the MSR Certificate of Pastoral Ministry program.**

Understanding the Bible

This Friday night-Saturday (or online course) focuses on historical timeline of biblical events, the development of the canon, and the challenges of interpretation. The use of commentaries and study Bibles is discussed as well as responsible use of the scripture in preaching and teaching. The class is prerequisite for those entering the Certificate of Pastoral Ministry program, but other laity are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Instructor: **Rev. Fran Schnarre**, is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and is the Director of Educational Ministries at MSR Center for Rural Ministry. She is also part-time pastor of Granville Christian Church near Paris, MO. Fran lives with her husband, Brian, on a farm near Centralia, MO. They are the parents of four grown children and have two grandchildren.

Online Dates: September 1-29, 2011

Onsite Dates: May 6-7 or August 5-6, 2011

Cost: \$140 (onsite includes lodging and meals - Commuter rate available)

For more information or a registration form contact Missouri School of Religion:
krystalmsr@earthlink.net or 573-635-1187.

Missouri School of Religion Letter from Director of Educational Ministries

In 2010, Board of Trustees and the faculty of the Missouri School of Religion adopted a statement of "Values and Expectations." We did this because we recognize that MSR is a learning community of people from a wide range of experiences and theologies. No one possesses the whole truth; we will not agree on many things. But we can listen and seek to understand each other in Christian love.

It is my promise to our students that this statement of values will be made prominent in everything we do at Missouri School of Religion from now on. We will include it in every registration packet; we will ask our CPM instructors to call it to the students' attention at the beginning of each course; we will make each continuing education presenter aware of the statement; and we will present it to continuing education participants at the beginning of each event. We will hang a copy of it in the classroom at the Rickman Center and will put it on the website and the online learning platform. Please take a moment to read MSR's new Values and Expectations statement in below.

I believe we can live together and learn together if we love each other. *And now, faith, hope and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love.* 1 Corinthians 13:13.



Fran Schnarre, Director of Educational Ministries
Missouri School of Religion

Values and Expectations

1 Corinthians 13 *If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

The Missouri School of Religion is an educational community where both students and faculty are expected to relate to each other with respect and courtesy, regardless of differences such as experience, theological perspective, age, gender, race or sexual orientation.

Members of the community acknowledge they will not always agree with each other, with the content of the classes, or with the choices individuals make in their own spiritual journeys.

In the midst of disagreement, each member of this learning community will be respectful of others. This respect entails:

- A commitment to accurately identify and understand others' feelings, thoughts, and behavior;
- A serious attempt to engage in creative conversation with others by:
 - Speaking honestly and courteously,
 - Listening carefully,
 - Contemplating prayerfully what has been said.

2011 Calendar of Events

April

28 **Caring Adults=Resilient Teens**
Keynoters: Maureen Coy, Ryan Worley and Heather Harlan
Columbia, MO

May

2 *Online* **Worship and Music** (8 week course)
Instructor: Rev. Robert Kemp-Baird

6-7 **Understanding the Bible**
Instructor: Rev. Fran Schnarre

19-21 **Personhood of the Pastor**
Instructor: Rev. Robert Eichenberger

June

3-4 **Introduction to the Hebrew Scripture**
Instructor: Rev. Clem Graham
Additional sessions required (June 24-25 and July 29-30)

July

2 *Online* **Pastor as Spiritual Leader** (8 week course)
Instructor: Rev. Nancy TannerThies

August

5-5 **Understanding the Bible**
Instructor: Rev. Fran Schnarre

18-20 **History and Polity of the Disciples of Christ**
Instructor: Rev. Ken Watson

September

1 *Online* **Understanding the Bible** (4 week course)
Instructor: Rev. Fran Schnarre

1 *Online* **Intro to Christian Thought** (8 week course)
Instructor: Rev. Thomas Minton

2-3 **Introduction to the New Testament**
Instructor: Rev. Robert Atkinson
Additional sessions required (Oct 7-8 and Nov 4-5)

September continued

10 *Faithbased Reentry Event*
Opening Gates, Opening Hearts: Christian Responses to Offender Reentry
Christian Fellowship, Columbia, MO

24 **Boundaries Training**
Facilitator: Rev. Donna Rose-Heim
First Christian Church, Columbia, MO

October

17 **Boundaries Training**
Facilitator: Rev. Donna Rose-Heim
Springfield, MO

9-13 **Parish/Faith Community Nurse Basic Preparation Course**
Instructor: Alvyne Rethemeyer
Regional Mission Center, Jefferson City

November

1 *Online* **Evangelism in Your Local Context** (4 week course)
Instructor: Rev. Bill Tenny-Brittian

4 **Pursuing Pastoral Excellence**
Facilitator: Rev. Paul Hopkins

11 Missouri School of Religion
Annual Fundraising Dinner
Rickman Center, Jefferson City, MO

December

9-10 **Stewardship Strategies**
Instructor: Ed Taylor

More information for each of these courses/events is available on our website:

www.missourischoolofreligion.org

Or call our office at 573-635-1187 or email krystalmsr@earthlink.net

Missouri School of Religion Center for Rural Ministry

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